



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

PACIFIC DISASTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION NETWORK (PDMIN)

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Oct 24, 2005

BANGLADESH

Viral Infections Spreading in Bangladesh

Due to severe flooding from heavy rainfall over the past few days, diseases including flu-like viruses, fevers, colds, dysentery and dengue fever are spreading rampantly in Bangladesh. Accurate figures have not been reported as most people with typhoid and diarrhea visit private practitioners and only go to hospitals for serious conditions.

Authorities are concerned with the possibility of a dengue outbreak, as stagnant water is everywhere and children are contracting the disease. Experts also worry about the contamination of drinking water as many are suffering from dysentery.

Source:

• *The Independent*, Oct 24, 2005, <http://independent-bangladesh.com/news/oct/24/24102005ts.htm#A1>

CHINA

AIDS Cases Could Reach Epidemic Proportions in China

The United Nations has warned China that over 10 million people could be infected with HIV by 2010 if the country does not implement preventive measures. The government has reported 840,000 HIV/AIDS cases, but health authorities believe the number is much higher. China has recently spent millions of dollars on HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns and offering free antiretroviral treatments, as the country has been accused of not recognizing the threat of the disease.

Source:

• *Reuters AlertNet*, Oct 24, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK81470.htm>

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HONG KONG

Streptococcus Suis Death in Hong Kong

A 43-year-old Hong Kong man died from a streptococcus suis infection on 13 October 2005. The victim had chills and a fever and was admitted to a city hospital earlier that day. Health officials believe that the case is a result of the August outbreak in mainland China, which killed 38 people and infected 215. The victim was a chef and is believed to have bought pork imported from China at a local market. The Hong Kong government has reported that 11 others have been infected with streptococcus suis this year [2005].

Source:

- ProMED-mail, Oct 24, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30795
- Bangkok Post, Oct 25, 2005, http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=57843

INDIA

India's Encephalitis Cases Continue to Rise

The number of Japanese Encephalitis cases continues to rise in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, India. There are 5,347 suspected cases of the disease and there have been 1,180 deaths since July 2005. The WHO has been providing vaccines and diagnostic reagents to help control the outbreak. The Government is working on a vaccination campaign for next year [2006]. Another form of the disease, Cocksackie encephalitis, is also spreading in Uttar Pradesh. Over 40 children have died from Cocksackie encephalitis and hundreds are receiving treatment in hospitals. This form of encephalitis can be transmitted from person to person and through contaminated water or food. Compared to Japanese encephalitis, those infected with Cocksackie encephalitis may experience longer fevers, heart failure and other complications.

Source:

- ReliefWeb, Oct 24, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/RMOI-6HH47S?OpenDocument>
- ReliefWeb, Oct 25, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/VBOL-6HHC9Y?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=ind>
- ProMED-mail, Oct 25, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30812

Dengue Continues to Affect India

The total number of dengue cases has now risen to 486 in India. Eight people have died from the disease this year [2005]. Medical officials believe the mosquitoes are breeding in water stored at construction sites. Municipal officials in New Delhi met this week to discuss the spread of the disease and preventive measures.

Source:

- The Times of India, Oct 25, 2005, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1273535.cms>
- New Kerala, Oct 25, 2005, <http://www.newkerala.com/news.php?action=fullnews&id=41653>
- The Times of India, Oct 26, 2005, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1275011.cms>

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INDONESIA

Fourth Death in Indonesia from Avian Influenza

The WHO has confirmed the fourth death from avian influenza in Indonesia. The Ministry of Health has confirmed three others are infected with the disease. Exposure to sick poultry is the likely cause of infection. The latest victim is a 23-year-old man from West Java. He was hospitalized at the end of September [2005] and died two days later.

Source:

- World Health Organization, Oct 24, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_10_24/en/index.html
- International Herald Tribune, Oct 25, 2005, http://www.iht.com/bin/print_ipub.php?file=/articles/2005/10/25/asia/web.1025fluindo.php
- The Jakarta Post, Oct 25, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailatestnews.asp?fileid=20051025132241&irec=9>

Measures Taken to Fight the Spread of Polio in Indonesia

The Red Cross has been working to fight the spread of polio in tsunami-stricken Aceh province, Indonesia. Since April 2005, 309 cases of polio have been recorded in Indonesia. Authorities have been advised to organize mass vaccinations, create campaigns to urge parents to vaccinate their children and develop better water systems in order to prevent the spread of the disease. Last month, 24 million children under the age of five were immunized in the second stage of the nation's vaccination campaign.

Source:

- ReliefWeb, Oct 25, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/CHAO-6HJ4SG?OpenDocument>
- The Jakarta Post, Oct 26, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailatestnews.asp?fileid=20051026123046&irec=4>

MALAYSIA

Dengue Fever on the Rise in Malaysia's Capital

The number of dengue fever cases in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is rising, despite the decrease in the number of cases in the rest of the country. Since 22 October [2005], 32,126 cases of the disease have been reported, although only 9,381 are confirmed. Eighty-one people have died from dengue this year [2005]. The latest victims are a 31-year old woman and a four-year old child. The health ministry believes the death toll could increase if the government does not intensify efforts to eradicate the Aedes mosquito.

Source:

- Bernama, Oct 25, 2005, <http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v3/news.php?id=162229>
- The Malay Mail, Oct 26, 2005, http://www.mmail.com.my/Current_News/MM/Wednesday/National/20051026105320/Article/index.html
- Today Online, Oct 26, 2005, <http://www.todayonline.com/articles/80338.asp>

MYANMAR

Dengue Fever Increases in Myanmar

About 13,000 cases of dengue have been reported in Myanmar this year [2005], which is a major increase compared to last year's [2004] 6,000 cases. Over half of the cases

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last year [2004] were recorded in the country's capital of Rangoon. Since June 2004, the health department has been working to prevent and control the disease through education and sanitation measures every weekend in Rangoon. Dengue fever usually occurs during and after the rainy season in Myanmar, and young children (under the age of 12) are especially susceptible to the virus.

Source:

· People's Daily Online, Oct 24, 2005, http://english.people.com.cn/200510/24/eng20051024_216403.html

NEPAL

Encephalitis Outbreak Continues in Nepal

As of the end of last month, 1,879 suspected cases of Japanese encephalitis have been reported in Nepal -- 298 people have died from the disease. The majority of the causes have been from the western regions of Nepal. The WHO is monitoring the situation and providing support.

Source:

· ReliefWeb, Oct 24, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/RMOI-6HH47S?OpenDocument>

NEW ZEALAND

Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak in New Zealand

Three people have been infected with and one person has died from legionnaire's disease in Christchurch, New Zealand (east coast of the South Island). The victims contracted the disease from inhaling bacteria in potting soil and compost bags. Health officials have advised gardeners to be careful when opening bags of potting mix and compost. New Zealand reports about five to eight cases of legionnaire's disease each year.

Source:

· ProMED-mail, Oct 27, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30825

· News Talk ZB, Oct 26, 2005, <http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/newsdetail1.asp?storyID=82801>

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

AIDS Epidemic in Papua New Guinea

United Nations officials have reported an AIDS epidemic in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The disease is spreading rapidly in the country due to people in polygamous marriages having unprotected sex and a lack of health and education programs. Polygamous marriages are traditional custom in areas of PNG. In addition, the country's police force has been accused of harassing AIDS workers and underfunding government efforts to help fight the spread of the disease. Out of PNG's population of 5 million, about 40,000 people are infected with HIV.

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Source:

· CNN.com, Oct 23, 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/asiapcf/10/23/png.aids.ap/index.html>

PHILIPPINES

Typhoid Fever Outbreak in Philippines

A typhoid outbreak two weeks ago has infected over 250 people and killed two people in the northern area of Cebu, Philippines. Most of the infected are children and have received hospital treatment. The bacterium that causes typhoid, *Salmonella typhi*, was discovered in blood cultures of the infected. Some areas do not have restroom facilities and residents are drinking water from open wells. The source of the outbreak has not been determined as the Department of Health is awaiting results from well water tests.

Source:

· ProMED-mail, Oct 27, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30829

· The Philippine Star, Oct 26, 2005, <http://www.philstar.com/philstar/Freeman200510271801.htm>

SINGAPORE

Singapore's Dengue Death Toll Rises

The death toll from dengue fever in Singapore this year [2005] has risen to 19, with the number of confirmed cases close to 13,000. Since the beginning of October [2005], three people have died from the disease. The average number of reported cases has dropped to 56, compared to 100 per day at the peak of the outbreak season.

Source:

· ABC Asia Pacific, Oct 26, 2005, http://abcasiapacific.com/news/stories/asiapacific_stories_1491397.htm

THAILAND

Additional Avian Influenza Cases in Thailand

Thailand's Ministry of Public Health has confirmed a second case of H5N1 avian influenza this year [2005]. The victim is a 7-year-old boy who is the son of man who died from the disease last week. There are also three suspected cases of avian influenza in Thailand. Medical volunteers are visiting areas where avian influenza has been reported to see if others have contracted the disease.

Source:

· World Health Organization, Oct 24, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_10_24/en/index.html

· ProMED-mail, Oct 25, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30811

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Contaminated Water Affects over 1,000 in Thailand

Over 1,000 people in southern Thailand have become ill from diseases due to contaminated flood water. The victims have received medical treatment but no one is in serious condition. Drinking water is scarce in the area as wells have been contaminated from heavy rains and flooding last week.

Source:

· The Nation, Oct 25, 2005, <http://202.60.196.117/breaking/read.php?lang=en&newsid=90439>

VIETNAM

Avian Influenza Has Killed 13 Since January in Southern Vietnam

Since January 2005, 13 people have contracted and died from the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. One hundred seven people have been hospitalized for suspected avian influenza cases since 27 December 2004, with 30 cases being fatal. The country plans to vaccinate over 150 million fowl to help stop the spread of the disease by the end of November [2005].

Source:

· Thahn Nien News, Oct 24, 2005, <http://www.thanhniennnews.com/healthy/?catid=8&newsid=10064>

Dengue Fever Spreading in Vietnam

Over 35,700 people in southern Vietnam have been infected with dengue fever since the beginning of the year [2005], a 4% increase in cases compared to last year [2004]. Thirty-six people have died from the disease. The southern region of the country has been hit particularly hard due to the weather. Due to severe droughts, people have been storing water in tanks around their homes. Residents have not been covering the tanks, creating ideal breeding areas for mosquitoes.

Source:

· Vietnam News, Oct 24, 2005, <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=01HEA241005>

· Thahn Nien News, Oct 24, 2005, <http://www.thanhniennnews.com/healthy/?catid=8&newsid=10062>

Other World News

PAKISTAN

Thirty Earthquake Survivors Die from Tetanus in Pakistan

Over 30 people who survived the 8 October [2005] earthquake in Pakistan have died from tetanus infections due to the lack of vaccines. Only 22 of the deaths have been confirmed by the WHO, but it is reported that 111 people are currently infected. The WHO provided 100,000 vaccine doses to the Pakistan government, but the supply is inadequate. Thousands of quake survivors are presently receiving medical attention in hospitals and medical sites throughout Pakistan.

Source:

· ReliefWeb, Oct 27, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/KOCA-6HKE5Z?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=pak>

· International Herald Tribune, Oct 27, 2005, <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2005/10/27/asia/web.1027quake.php>

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· ProMED-mail, Oct 28, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30843

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